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For Release MARCH 7, 1962

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today further

The action, based upon recent authorization by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, marks a new step forward in the Department's program to expand and improve outdoor recreation opportunities to protect wildlife, Secretary Udall said.

The Anahuac Refuge in Texas consists of 9,907 acres and will be of particular importance to canvasback ducks, now dwindling in number, and the lesser Canada, blue, and snow geese. It also will provide replacement for endangered wintering habitat in that part of the coastal region.

The Commission authorized addition of 27 acres to the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in Cayuga and Seneca Counties, central New York. The refuge was established in 1937 and now contains 6,804 acres. The enlargement is necessary for a planned 385-acre pool for management purposes. The Montezuma Refuge was established after canal and agricultural developments threatened the habitat for the popular black duck and other species.

The 27,861-acre Columbia National Wildlife Refuge in central Washington has received 385 additional acres. This will round out the acquisition of an agricultural area necessary in managing the refuge for the many species of waterfowl using the Pacific Flyway. The refuge was established in 1944.

At the same meeting the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission discussed numerous matters of procedures and procedural changes which might be advisable to speed up the emergency waterfowl acquisition program authorized last year by Congress. Under this program, Congress authorized a loan of \$105 million to the Department of the Interior for acquiring waterfowl lands. The loan covers a seven-year period and will be repaid, beginning in 1969, from receipts from the sale of duck stamps.

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